**Chapter 2: Early Civilizations**

I. Mesopotamia

* **Mesos –**
* **Potamos –**
* Greek meaning “land between the rivers”
* Area located between the **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers** – Modern-day Iraq
* **Fertile Crescent –**
* **Sumerians –**

1. Environmental Challenges

1)

* Each year the two rivers flooded
* Did not flood at the same time or on the same land each year
* If rivers did not flood the land was a desert
* **Solution:**

2)

* Left the Sumerians open to attacks
* Created state of constant warfare
* **Solution:**

3)

* **Solution:**

1. Sumerian Religion

* **Polytheism –**
* **Polys –**
* **Theos –**
* Believed in over 3000 gods
* **Ziggurat –**
* ***Epic of Gilgamesh –***
* Story of King Gilgamesh’s unsuccessful quest for immortality
* Flood story

1. First Empire

* **Empire** –
* **Sargon of Akkad –**

1. Hammurabi – 1780 BC

* Conquered Mesopotamia and established his empire at Babylon
* Most famous for his code of laws

1. Code of Hammurabi

* 282 laws
* Helped bring many people together under one law
* **Retributive Justice –**
* “An eye for an eye”
* “A tooth for a tooth”
* Set different punishments for rich and poor
* Only equal punishment for people of the same class
* A rich person who took the eye of a lower class person had to pay a fine